

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2522

To amend the Organic Act of Guam to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reduce, release, or waive amounts owed by the Government of Guam to the United States to offset unreimbursed Compact impact expenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the Organic Act of Guam to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reduce, release, or waive amounts owed by the Government of Guam to the United States to offset unreimbursed Compact impact expenses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Compact Impact Rec-
5 onciliation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPACT IMPACT RECONCILIATION.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In enacting the Compact of Free Associa-
2 tion Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–239), Congress au-
3 thorized unrestricted migration from the Federated
4 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall
5 Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the United
6 States. Public Law 99–239 stated that if any ad-
7 verse consequences to Guam resulted from imple-
8 mentation of the Compacts of Free Association, the
9 Congress would act sympathetically and expedi-
10 tiously to redress those adverse consequences.

11 (2) The General Accounting Office has reported
12 that such migration permitted under the Compacts
13 of Free Association has had a significant impact on
14 Guam.

15 (3) By placing demands on local government
16 for health, educational, and other social services, mi-
17 gration under the Compacts of Free Association has
18 adversely affected the budgetary resources of the
19 Government of Guam.

20 (4) Insufficient sums have been appropriated to
21 cover the costs incurred by the Government of Guam
22 resulting from increased demands placed on health,
23 educational, and other social services by citizens of
24 the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
25 the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

1 (5) The Government of Guam has provided
2 health, educational, and other social services in good
3 faith with the expectation that such incurred costs
4 would be reimbursed by the United States.

5 (6) Guam has experienced a severe economic
6 crisis in recent years which has been exacerbated by
7 expenses incurred related to Compact migration
8 without adequate reimbursement from the United
9 States.

10 (7) The Government of Guam has accrued sig-
11 nificant obligations to the United States Govern-
12 ment, including but not limited to—

13 (A) \$9,000,000 owed by the Guam Water-
14 works Authority to the Department of the Navy
15 for water consumption;

16 (B) \$3,000,000 owed by the Guam Com-
17 munity College to the Department of Education
18 for construction of a student housing facility;

19 (C) \$40,000,000 owed by the Government
20 of Guam in local matching funds to the Depart-
21 ment of Homeland Security for Typhoon
22 Chata'an (FEMA-1426-DR) and Supertyphoon
23 Pongsona (FEMA-1446-DR) disaster assist-
24 ance; and

1 (D) \$105,000,000 owed by the Guam Tele-
2 phone Authority to the Department of Agri-
3 culture for telephone infrastructure improve-
4 ments.

5 (8) Congress has the authority to reconcile the
6 amounts that have not been appropriated to Guam
7 for Compact impact assistance with obligations owed
8 by the Government of Guam to the United States.

9 (9) Reconciliation is in the national interest and
10 would promote good will in the future renewal of the
11 Compacts of Free Association and the economic re-
12 covery of Guam.

13 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Organic Act of Guam (48
14 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
15 the following new section:

16 “SEC. 36. The Secretary of the Interior may reduce,
17 release, or waive all or part of any amounts owed by the
18 Government of Guam (or its autonomous agencies or in-
19 strumentalities) to any department, agency, independent
20 agency, office, or instrumentality of the United States.”.

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